

REMARKS/ ARGUMENTS

The examiner has rejected claims 1-2 and 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kakabaker et. al, U.S. Patent #4,743,034. Applicant submits that Kakabaker cannot anticipate applicant because Kakabaker does not disclose a stator closely surrounding the shaft in as much as the rotor is between the shaft and the stator, the stator is removed from the shaft i.e. not closely related.

The examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 9-14 and 18-26 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Orlowski, U.S. Patent # 5,174,583. Applicant submits that Orlowski also has a rotor 24 between shaft 100 and stator 20 precluding close proximity of the stator 20 to the shaft 100.

The varied mutations of the claims for the stators configuration may not be assembled with the stator removed or isolated by the rotor from the shaft. The examiner further rejects claims 7, 8, 15, 16, 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Claims 7 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Orlowski et al, Patent #5,174,583 ('583). Orlowski '583 does not anticipate applicant's invention as noted above. The proportion between stator and shaft is not obvious as the '583 patent has the rotor between the stator and shaft as noted, so the only proportion would be shaft to rotor, not to stator.

Claims 8 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Orlowski and in view of Kakabaker. Orlowski does not disclose the invention substantially as claims as noted above. Thus, the addition of Kakabaker to show slots as contrasted to holes does not anticipate as the cavity and relationship between shaft, stator and sump are different than the relationship taught by applicant i.e. shaft, stator, rotor and sump or collection point. Additionally, prior argument of inoperability if holes were adjacent the shaft precludes the combination. None of the references show or describe or suggest having a stator groove or cavity adjacent to and/or exposed to the shaft to strip and collect the lubricant adhering thereto. As Kakabaker states "the stator closely surrounds the rotor" which surrounds the shaft isolating the stator from the shaft

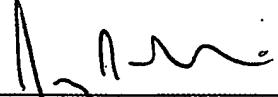
in contrast to Applicant's teaching wherein both stator and rotor surround said shaft and are adjacent thereto to perform the functions of the stator stripping and collecting lubricant adhering to said shaft for return to a sump.

Applicant believes this application as now presented is in condition for allowance and action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Isotech of Illinois, Inc.

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By 
Jay R. Hamilton
Reg. No. 50,644

Law Office of Jay R. Hamilton, PLC.
331 W. 3rd St. NVC Suite 100
Davenport, IA 52801
Tel (563) 441-0207
Fax (563) 823-4637

CLAIM LISTING

1. (Currently Amended) An isolator mechanism for use with a housing having a bearing with lubricant in the housing and a shaft protruding through the housing, the isolator comprising:

- a) a stator affixed to the housing and surrounding the shaft[], a rotor rotating with the shaft and encompassing said stator;
- b) said stator having a radial groove formed therein with the walls of said groove extending between said housing and said shaft;
- c) the exterior surface of a first wall of said groove facing the interior of the housing;
- d) an axial hole in said first wall at the lower extremity of said first wall from said shaft connecting said groove to said housing.

2. (Currently Amended) An isolator in accordance with claim 1, wherein said radial groove is more than one-half the radial dimension of said stator.

3. (Currently Amended) An isolator in accordance with claim 1, wherein said hole in said first wall of stator includes an axially sloping surface connecting said radial groove to said housing.

4. (Currently Amended) An isolator in accordance with claim 3, wherein said hole and said sloping surface are elongated.

5. (Currently Amended) An isolator in accordance with claim 3, wherein said hole and said sloping surface are milled in said first wall.

6. (Currently Amended) An isolator in accordance with claim 1, wherein the inside diameter of said stator is proportional to the diameter of said shaft.
7. (Currently Amended) An isolator in accordance with claim 6, wherein the proportion of said stator to said shaft is 0.005 inches per inch of shaft diameter.
8. (Currently Amended) An isolator in accordance with claim 4, wherein said hole and said sloping surface are elongated circumferentially.
9. (Currently Amended) An isolator mechanism for use with a housing having a bearing with lubricant in a housing and a shaft protruding through the housing, the isolator comprising:
- a) a stator affixed to the housing and surrounding the shaft[;], a rotor rotating with the shaft and encompassing said stator;
 - b) said stator having a plurality of radial grooves formed therein with the walls of said grooves extending between said housing and said shaft;
 - c) the exterior surface of a first wall of said grooves facing the interior of the housing;
 - d) an axial hole in said in said walls at the extremity of said walls from said shaft connecting said grooves to said cavity housing.
10. (Currently Amended) An isolator in accordance with claim 9, wherein said radial grooves are more than one-half the radial dimension of said stator.
11. (Currently Amended) An isolator in accordance with claim 10, wherein said hole in said walls of said stator include a sloping surface connecting said radial grooves to said housing.

12. (Currently Amended) An isolator in accordance with claim 11, wherein said hole and said sloping surface are elongated.

13. (Currently Amended) An isolator in accordance with claim 12, wherein said hole and said sloping surface are milled in said walls of said stator.

14. (Currently Amended) An isolator in accordance with claim 9, wherein the inside diameter of said stator is proportional to the shaft diameter.

15. (Currently Amended) An isolator in accordance with claim 14, wherein the proportion between said stator and said shaft is 0.005 inches per inch of shaft diameter.

16. (Currently Amended) An isolator in accordance with claim 12, wherein said hole in said stator is elongated circumferentially.

17. -26. (CANCELLED)

27. (New) An isolator mechanism for use with a housing having a bearing with lubricant in a housing and a shaft protruding through the housing, the isolator comprising:

- a) a stator affixed to a housing and surrounding a shaft;
- b) a rotor rotating with said shaft and encompassing said stator;
- c) said stator having a plurality of radial grooves formed therein with the walls of said grooves extending between said housing and said shaft, wherein the exterior surface of a first wall of said grooves is facing the interior of said housing;

- e) an axial hole in said walls at the extremity of said walls from said shaft connecting said grooves to said housing; and,
- f) said grooves are adjacent to said shaft so as strip and collect lubricant adhering to said shaft.

28. (New) An isolator in accordance with claim 27, wherein said radial grooves are more than one-half the radial dimension of said stator.

29. (New) An isolator in accordance with claim 28, wherein said hole in said walls of said stator include a sloping surface connecting said radial grooves to said housing.

30. (New) An isolator in accordance with claim 29, wherein said hole and said sloping surface are elongated.

31. (New) An isolator in accordance with claim 29, wherein said hole and said sloping surface are milled in said walls of said stator.

32. (New) An isolator in accordance with claim 27, wherein the inside diameter of said stator is proportional to the shaft diameter.

33. (New) An isolator in accordance with claim 32, wherein the proportion between said stator and said shaft is 0.005 inches per inch of shaft diameter.

34. (New) An isolator in accordance with claim 30, wherein said hole in said stator is elongated circumferentially.